How to encourage communication

Make sure that the person is as comfortable as possible and find an appropriate setting, somewhere not too noisy or distracting.

Find out what their likes and dislikes are. What are they interested in?

Create a desire to communicate, make sure it's rewarding and fun. The person will learn to enjoy relationships and find that they can change things by communicating.

Modify the way that you communicate, use visual cues and simplify your language.

Give the person plenty of time, leave pauses for the person to respond to you.

Give the person choices, you may have to think about how to present these as many people need visual cues.

Focus on the 'here and now'. Comment on what the person is doing at the time. Let the person take the lead.

‘Engineer’ situations which create a need and the opportunity to communicate. Create situations in which the person has to ask for help or an item, do something silly! Don't provide food or other items without a request, do something that the person will object to, do something that the person will ask for more of.

Images courtesy of CHANGE.